

STODDARD NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IV, ISSUE I

FEBRUARY, 2011

STODDARD COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Available Cost Share Practices

- Vegetative Cover
- Diversions
- Woodland Protection
- Grazing Systems
- Ponds
- Drop Pipes
- Underground Pipe
- Irrigation Systems
- Well Decommissioning
- Field Borders
- Sod Waterway
- No-till Systems

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS

The Stoddard County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors is made up of five people. The county is divided up into four areas with one supervisor elected from each area. The fifth member of the Board is appointed from the Missouri Extension office.

Terms

The term for a supervisor is four years. Every two years, an election is held for two of the supervisor positions.

Eligibility

Qualifications required to be a supervisor include:

- Be a land representative from the district

- Reside in, or own a farm in, the territory from which he/she is nominated

- Be a cooperator of the district, defined as, "A person who is actively engaged in farming and practices conservation activities related to agriculture

- Be a tax-paying citizen of the county for at least two years

Elections

To be eligible to vote for Board supervisors, you must be the owner of one or more farms in Stoddard County.

Elections for one supervisor from Area 2 (Pike Township) and

one from Area 4 (Richland and Elk Townships) will be held on April 22, 2011, from 7 AM to 4 PM at the USDA Building on Highway 25.

The following candidates have been found eligible to be elected to the Board of Supervisors to serve a four year term:

Area 2

Clint Stephens
Ryan McKee

Area 4

Johnnie Stephens
Jim Stuever

Don't forget to vote!!!

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MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN INITIATIVE

Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) is a federal program that is administered through NRCS programs such as EQIP, WHIP and CSP. The two major watersheds that have been targeted in the south half of Missouri are the St. Francis River and Little River watersheds. These two water-

sheds drain all of Stoddard County.

Some of the proposed practices are: cover crop, conservation crop rotation, nutrient management, shallow water management, regrade, in field water monitoring, underground pipe and irrigation water management. Producers

close to the Little River Drainage Ditches and the St. Francis River could be eligible for this program.

The sign-ups for this program will be held February 22 through March 11, 2011.

Please stop by the office or call to see if you are located in the project areas.

Poster Contest Winners

The Stoddard County Soil & Water Conservation District hosts a poster contest for the fourth graders in the county each year. There were 342 students participating for 2010.

The theme was "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats". The students were taught that conservation habits are consistent actions that can help protect and manage our natural resources. By doing this, healthy habitats are created and

maintained making them flourishing places for animals and others to live.

First place winners from each school were awarded \$10. They were as follows:



Allison Statler

Stoddard County 2nd Place



Chloe Lemmon

Stoddard County 1st Place

Advance.....Clay Saucedo

Bell City.....Myah Kennedy

Bloomfield.....Allison Statler

Dexter.....Rylan Hillis

Puxico.....Levi Woods

Richland.....Paige Bilderback

County winner's posters went on to the state competition. They were awarded prizes of \$50, \$30 and \$20.



Bailee Williams

Stoddard County 3rd Place

Well Decommissioning Money Available

We need your help in getting the word out! Do you have or know of old wells that are not in use any longer?

Wells that are in disrepair or have not been used for a period of two years are considered abandoned. Plugging abandoned wells is the responsibility of the landowner. An abandoned drilled well can introduce contaminants into

the groundwater system, and may be responsible for contaminating your water supply, and that of your neighbors.

Our office can cost-share to plug wells. Instructions will be given to you so that it is performed in accordance with regulations. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (573) 624-5939, ext 3.

IRRIGATION PRACTICES AVAILABLE COUNTY WIDE

Irrigation practices that were previously only available in SALT project watersheds have become available to the entire county. We are currently contracting these in all parts of the county. These irrigation practices include:

**Underground pipe
Surge valves
Pivot Renozzle**

The practices can be cost-shared through our office at 50 percent. If you have any questions regarding these practices, please give our office a call or come into the office to add your name to the list.



The Stoddard County cost-share dollars spent for conservation practices are funded through the 1 / 10 of 1% Missouri Parks, Soils and Water Tax .

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Equipment Rental Rates



10 Ft John Deere No-Till Drill with Legume Box

In-County: \$10.00 per acre
Minimum Charge of \$100.00
Deposit: \$100.00

10 Ft Truax Warm Season Grass Drill

In-County: \$12.00 per acre
Minimum Charge of \$100.00
Deposit: \$100.00



**Straw Blower
(Mulcher)**

\$50.00 Half Day

Generations Project

Generations was a project which tested nitrate concentrations by taking samples from the lower portion of the cornstalks at the end of the growing season. By assessing the levels of nitrate in cornstalks, producers can utilize this information as another tool for fertilizer management. Results can be used in conjunction with soil maps, yield maps, varietal differences and the different forms of nitrogen fertilizer to give more precision to management decisions. These decisions affect the amount of nitrogen that is used in a given year and ultimately the profitability attained in farming operations.

Eligible operators for this pilot project

included anyone who farmed within the Little River Watershed, below the Diversion Channel in the Bootheel counties of Stoddard, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Scott.

After a training session, members of local FFA chapters performed the cornstalk sampling on farms, working directly with the producers. While FFA chapters were utilizing this project as a fundraiser, it also allowed students to interact with farmers and agribusiness professionals. Participating Stoddard County FFA chapters included Advance, Bernie, Bloomfield, Dexter and Puxico. Each chapter was paid per sample.

The money that was raised by the students for their respective FFA chapters totaled \$15,960.36.



Members of the Dexter FFA were turning in a portion of their corn stalk samples to the RC & D Office.

AREA 8 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Missouri Soil & Water Conservation District Employee's Association awards one scholarship to each of the eight areas of Missouri every year. This year the scholarship amount was \$500.00.

The winner for our area for the 2010-2011 school year is from Stoddard County. Jenni-

fer Johns Koenig is a junior at Southeast Missouri State University majoring in business administration. She is currently working part-time for NRCS in Bollinger, Wayne and Cape counties. Jennifer is the daughter of Kevin and Janet Johns of Dudley.

Congratulations Jennifer!



Congratulations!

Soil Conservation Technician Brandon Emmons and his wife, Shonda, were blessed with a new baby boy on December 28, 2010.



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NRCS STAFF CHANGES

Brandon Emmons

We are very proud to introduce the newest member of our staff, Brandon Emmons. Brandon had been working in the Butler County NRCS Office when he was hired as a Soil Conservation Technician in Stoddard County in October. Brandon, and his wife, Shonda, have two sons, Ty (2) and Tucker (8 weeks)

New Job

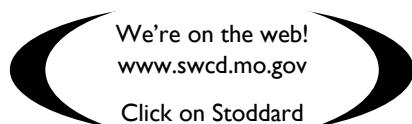
Kurt LeBeau has been in our office for eight years. He worked for the district for six years and for NRCS for more than two years. In December, he started a new job in Butler County as a Soil Conservationist. We wish him well in his new job!



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**CONSERVING OUR
RESOURCES FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS!**



Board of Supervisors

Chairman: Jim Stuever
Vice-Chairman: Clint Stephens
Treasurer: Gary Deardorff
Secretary: David Guethle
Member: Allen Below

District Staff

District Manager: Janet Johns
District Technician: Joshua Lemmons
SALT Technician: Tyler Moore

NRCS Staff

District Conservationist: Michelle Gross
Resource Conservationist: Shane Bess
Soil Conservation Tech: Ryan McFarlen
Soil Conservation Tech: Brandon Emmons
Office Automation Clerk: Erin Dissler
Part-Time Technician: Pam Irvin



Dates to Remember

Memorial Day
May 30
Office Closed

4th of July
Office Closed

Labor Day
September 5
Office Closed